

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. Please cancel Claims 9, 11 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage unit detachable from an information processing apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing user information for user authentication;

authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input from an information processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and user information stored in said storage means; and

output means for outputting an authentication result of said authentication means to the information processing apparatus,

wherein the information processing apparatus performs a control process to eject the storage unit from the information processing apparatus based on the authentication result.

2. (Currently Amended) The storage unit according to claim 1, wherein said authentication means performs authentication on the basis of authentication information transmitted from the information processing apparatus together with an eject instruction, and the user information stored in said storage means, and

said output means notifies the information processing apparatus of eject permission when authentication by said authentication means is successful.

3. (Currently Amended) The storage unit according to claim 2, wherein the user information includes a pair of identification information and password information which specify a user, and

said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when a pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information are contained in the user information.

4. (Currently Amended) The storage unit according to claim 3, wherein the user information contains an attribute assigned to a user, and

said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when the pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information are contained in the user information and a user specified by the pair of identification information and password information is assigned a predetermined attribute.

5. (Currently Amended) The storage unit according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined attribute includes mouter information which specifies a user who is first permitted to access the storage unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The storage unit according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined attribute information includes owner information representing an owner of the storage unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The storage unit according to claim 4, wherein the storage unit further comprises holding means for holding designation information which designates an attribute to be used for authentication processing by said authentication means, and

said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when the user specified by the pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information is assigned the attribute designated by the designation information.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus in which ~~allows detaching~~ a storage unit ~~having~~ is detachably mounted,

wherein the storage unit comprises:

storage means for storing user information for user authentication[[,]] ;

authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input to the storage unit from the information processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and the user information stored in the storage means[[,]] ; and

output means for outputting an authentication result of the authentication means to the information processing apparatus, and

wherein the information processing apparatus comprises: comprising:

providing means for providing an interface for ~~causing~~ a user to input authentication information ~~in~~ for executing predetermined processing for ~~ejecting~~ the storage unit from the information processing apparatus;

transmission means for transmitting the authentication information input via the interface to the storage unit;

reception means for receiving the authentication result output from the output means of the storage unit; and

execution means for executing the predetermined processing ~~for the storage unit for ejecting the storage unit from the information processing apparatus~~ on the basis of the authentication result received by said reception means ~~output from the output means in response to transmission of the authentication information.~~

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An access control method for an information processing apparatus and a storage unit detachable from ~~[[an]]~~ the information processing apparatus, comprising:

a registration step of registering user information for user authentication in a storage medium arranged in the storage unit;

a providing step of providing an interface for ~~causing~~ a user to input authentication information ~~in~~ for executing predetermined processing for ejecting the storage unit from the information processing apparatus;

an authentication step of causing an authentication module in the storage unit to execute authentication processing on the basis of the authentication information input via the interface and the user information registered in the storage medium of the storage unit in the registration step; ~~and~~

a transmission step of transmitting an authentication result of the authentication step from the storage unit to the information processing apparatus; and
an execution step of executing the predetermined processing ~~for the storage unit~~ for ejecting the storage unit from the information processing apparatus on the basis of ~~the~~ [[an]] the authentication result transmitted in the authentication transmission step.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium on which is stored a control program for causing an information processing apparatus ~~which allows detaching a~~ having a detachable storage unit to execute a predetermined processing for ejecting the storage unit from the information processing apparatus,

wherein the storage unit comprises: having

storage means for storing user information for user authentication~~[[,]]~~ ;

authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input to the storage unit from the information processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and the user information stored in the storage means~~[[,]]~~ ; and

output means for outputting an authentication result of the authentication means to the information processing apparatus,

and wherein the predetermined eject processing comprising comprises:

a providing step of providing an interface for ~~causing~~ a user to input authentication information ~~in~~ for executing the predetermined processing ~~for the storage unit~~ for ejecting the storage unit from the information processing apparatus;

a transmission step of transmitting the authentication information input via the interface to the storage unit;

a reception step of receiving the authentication result output from the output means ~~of the storage unit in response to transmission of the authentication information;~~ and

an execution step of executing an ejection of ~~the predetermined processing~~ for the storage unit from the information processing apparatus on the basis of the authentication result received in said reception step.

13. (Cancelled)